GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5347
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
THEFT OF COAL IN WCL
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of theft of coal worth crores of rupees in coal belt of Western Coal Mines have been brought to the notice of the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against those involved in clandestine operation; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check smuggling and massive theft of coal in Western Coalfields Limited?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & MINERALS

(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): As per information received from Coal India Limited(CIL), there was no loss due to pilferageof coal during 1997-98 and 1998-99 in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), a subsidiary of CIL.However, a small quantity of 13 tonnes of coal amounting to Rs. 11,000 was lost due to pilferage in WCL in 1999-2000. The company lodged a First Information Report in this case with the Police Station, Wani on 16.1.2000. After police investigation, two persons were reportedly arrested by the police. The company management have blacklisted the truck involved in this case along with its driver from entering the Wani (North) Area. Moreover, the trucks of a coal transporter have also been stopped from entering the area. The services of private security guard who was found to have connived with this theft case, have been terminated.

(c): The following steps are being taken continuously by the WCL to guard against theft of coal:-

i) At entry/exit points of all coal mines, check posts have been established which check all coal laden vehicles.

ii) Coal stock locations are guarded by security staff round the clock.

iii) Patrolling is done by the security staff round the clock.

iv) Liaison with local police at area level is done to check coal theft and maintain vigil in the area.

v) Joint patrolling with local police is carried out.

vi) Surprise checks/raids by the flying squad of the company are carried out.

vii) Surprise re-weighment of coal laden trucks at weighbridges is done.

viii) Coal sidings, weigh-bridges, check posts are being provided with mobile wireless sets, for effective communication to prevent coal thefts.

ix) All weigh-bridges are being converted into electronic weigh-bridges.

x) Escorting coal rakes in coordination with Railway Protection Force is being done till weighment is being organised.

xi) In cases of coal thefts, First Information Reports are lodged with the local police and followed up for recovery of the stolen coal.